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ABSTRACT

This program guide for the elementary and middle school levels contains the student manual which is also published separately. Through the strategies of mediation, negotiation, and group problem solving, students learn to recognize, manage, and resolve conflict in peaceful, noncoercive ways. While accepting conflict as a natural everyday consequence of the human search for belonging, power, freedom, and fun, the strategies described help learners realize the choices that they face in conflict situations and enable them to resolve conflicts with confidence and independence. The book elucidates a vision of a peaceable climate, an understanding of conflict and of peace, and the means of resolution through communication. To foster mediation and group problem solving, the volume describes a six-step process: (1) agreeing to mediate, and accepting ground rules; (2) gathering points of view; (3) focusing on interests; (4) creating win-win options; (5) evaluating options; and (6) creating an agreement. For each chapter, the guide provides lesson plans and ideas for interactive student exercises. The appendices explain how to implement a mediation program, including advice on changing school disciplinary rules, the selection and training of mediators, and program logistics. Sample mediator contracts and parental permission forms, an annotated bibliography of children's literature, and simulations are provided. Contains 20 references. (JD)

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